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Outcomes of macular hole surgery with internal limiting membrane removal according to preoperative stage.

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Purpose: To evaluate the visual and anatomic outcomes of macular hole surgery with internal limiting membrane removal according to preoperative stage. **Methods:** Retrospective analysis of 61 cases of idiopathic macular hole submitted to classical three-port vitrectomy, posterior hyaloid and internal limiting membrane removal without assistance of staining. **Results:** There were 14 (23%) cases of stage 2, 42 (68,9%) of stage 3 and 5 (8,2%) of stage 4 macular holes. Mean preoperative visual acuity was 0,35 (SD 0,19) in stage 2, 0,14 (SD 0,14) in stage 3 and 0,01 (SD 0,02) in stage 4. Mean postoperative visual acuity was 0,64 (SD 0,24) in stage 2, 0,37 (SD 0,22) in stage 3 and 0,35 (SD 0,23) in stage 4. Improvement of visual acuity was established in 100% of the cases in stage 4 and 78,6% in stages 2 and 3. Only 1 case in stage 3 had worsening of visual acuity. Remaining cases had the same preoperative and postoperative visual acuity. Closure of macular holes was accomplished in all cases in stage 2 and stage 4. Three cases of stage 3 macular hole were found open in postoperative evaluation. **Conclusions:** Mean preoperative visual acuity seems to be worse in more advanced stages of macular holes. Nevertheless, mean postoperative visual acuity does not seem to differ in stages 3 and 4, although both present improvement.